



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

**Office of Law
Enforcement**

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations

Director Bruce Buckson
NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement

Council Coordination Committee - May 15, 2014
Virginia Beach, Va.



Matt Brown



Bill Pickering



OLE Divisions



Logan Gregory



Bill Giles



Tracy Dunn



Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD

Five Divisions co-located with Regional Offices (NE, SE, AK, WC, and PI)

53 field offices throughout the United States and U.S. territories

96 Special Agents - 27 Enforcement Officers - 73 Support Staff

Office of Law Enforcement

- Mission statement
 - Mission and goals team recommended, “The mission of NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement is to **protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations** dedicated to **protecting wildlife and their natural habitat** for the use and enjoyment of future generations.”
 - NOTE: OLE is the **only federal law enforcement agency fully dedicated to federal fisheries enforcement.**

About us

- The Office for Law Enforcement has a mission across all NOAA lines as a matrix program.
- The Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section is the primary legal partner of OLE and prosecutes civil cases.
- The Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Offices are the legal advisors and prosecutorial partners in criminal matters.
- U.S. Coast Guard is our primary federal enforcement partner.

Federal partnerships

U.S. Coast Guard
27 JEA State & U.S. Territory Partners
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Customs & Border Protection
U.S. Marshals Service
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Drug Enforcement Administration
Food & Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Offices



State partnerships



Joint Enforcement Agreements with 27 coastal states and U.S. territories

Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands and Washington

OLE priorities for 2014 - 2015

- Establish our Enforcement Officers Program
 - EO Supervisors hired
 - Vacancy Announcement issued for new EOs.
- Combat IUU Fishing
 - CTAP MOU
 - Interpol
 - International Partnerships
- VMS
VMS Program

May 2012 Workforce Analysis & Staffing Plan

- Staffing Plan
 - The plan will substantially change the composition of OLE's workforce, in part by decreasing the percentage of the workforce that are special agents and increasing the percent that are uniformed enforcement officers who are on the docks helping with compliance and inspecting, and on the water monitoring and patrolling.
 - These and other changes will improve our ability to ensure compliance with the law by combining focused and effective criminal enforcement with more extensive compliance assistance, monitoring, patrols, and inspections.

Cooperative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations

- Investigation of IUU fishing activity and trafficking in illegal fish and fish product
- Fisheries Enforcement Capacity Building
- RFMO Participation
- Port State Measures and other IUU-related legislation
- NOAA “Level the Playing Field” Plan 2012



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NOAA FISHERIES

Vessel Monitoring System

- Operational Since 1994
- 4,500 active vessels equipped with VMS
- Active in 20 fisheries nationwide
- 7 active monitoring locations
 - HQ
 - NE
 - SE
 - AK (Juneau and Kodiak)
 - NW
 - PI
- 5 type-approved mobile transmitters



Office of Law Enforcement – NOAA Fisheries

Questions/Comments?